

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 21 has been added.

The claims have been amended as follows:

6. (AMENDED) [The ultrasonic cleaning apparatus according to claim 3, the ultrasonic cleaning apparatus further] An ultrasonic cleaning apparatus which cleans a subject to be cleaned by utilizing oscillation generated by an ultrasonic oscillator, comprising:

a power amplifier for amplifying an amplitude of a signal to supply the signal as power to said ultrasonic oscillator;

a detector for detecting a state of said ultrasonic oscillator;

a controller for controlling a frequency of said signal depending on an output detected by the detector; and

a load state decision section for deciding based on the current flowing through said ultrasonic oscillator and the voltage applied to said ultrasonic oscillator whether a load is applied or not,

wherein said power supplied to said ultrasonic oscillator is set to a range from 1W to 10W, and wherein, when no load is applied, said power amplifier regulates said power supplied to said ultrasonic oscillator to ½ that when the load is applied or less.

7. (AMENDED) [The ultrasonic cleaning apparatus according to claim 3, the ultrasonic cleaning apparatus further] An ultrasonic cleaning apparatus which cleans a subject to be cleaned by utilizing oscillation generated by an ultrasonic oscillator, comprising:

a power amplifier for amplifying an amplitude of a signal to supply the signal as power to said ultrasonic oscillator;

a detector for detecting a state of said ultrasonic oscillator, said detector is a phase comparator for obtaining a difference between a phase of a current flowing through said ultrasonic oscillator and a phase of a voltage applied to said ultrasonic oscillator and for generating the voltage in accordance with the phase difference;

a controller for controlling a frequency of said signal depending on an output detected by the detector, said controller is a voltage control oscillation device for generating a signal having a frequency in accordance with the voltage generated by the phase comparator and for controlling said frequency so that said phase difference is kept within a predetermined phase range; and

a load state decision section for deciding based on the current flowing through said ultrasonic oscillator and the voltage applied to said ultrasonic oscillator whether a load is applied or not,

wherein said power supplied to said ultrasonic oscillator is set to a range from 1W to 10W, and wherein, when no load is applied, said voltage control

oscillation device controls said frequency to regulate said phase difference to 60° or more.

9. (AMENDED) An ultrasonic cleaning apparatus which cleans a subject to be cleaned by utilizing oscillation generated by an ultrasonic oscillator, comprising:

a power amplifier for amplifying an amplitude of a signal to supply the signal as power to said ultrasonic oscillator,

wherein [a] the power supplied to said ultrasonic oscillator from said power amplifier is set to a range from 1W to 10W, and

wherein at least one passive element of a coil and a capacitor is connected in parallel to said ultrasonic oscillator, and a difference between a resonance frequency of a synthesis circuit and an anti-resonance frequency thereof close to the resonance frequency is regulated to 1 kHz or more, the synthesis circuit being constituted by the passive element and the ultrasonic oscillator[, is regulated to 1 kHz or more].

12. (AMENDED) The ultrasonic cleaning apparatus according to claim [1] 9, wherein an adjusting circuit is provided between said power amplifier and said ultrasonic oscillator, the adjusting circuit being for adjusting an impedance between said power amplifier and said ultrasonic oscillator,

wherein [said] a phase comparator is provided among said adjusting circuit[,] and said ultrasonic oscillator [and said passive element].

13. (AMENDED) The ultrasonic cleaning apparatus according to claim 1,

the ultrasonic cleaning apparatus further comprising:

a switching transistor connected between said power amplifier and said ultrasonic oscillator; and

a switch control section connected to said switching transistor,

wherein said switch control section turns off said switching transistor until said phase difference becomes equal to a predetermined value, and turns on said switching transistor after said phase difference becomes equal to said predetermined value.

14. (AMENDED) [The ultrasonic cleaning apparatus according to claim 1,] An ultrasonic cleaning apparatus which cleans a subject to be cleaned by utilizing oscillation generated by an ultrasonic oscillator, comprising:

a power amplifier for amplifying an amplitude of a signal to supply the signal as power to said ultrasonic oscillator;

a detector for detecting a state of said ultrasonic oscillator; and

a controller for controlling a frequency of said signal depending on an output detected by the detector;

wherein said power supplied to said ultrasonic oscillator is set to a range from 1W to 10W and wherein a difference between a resonance frequency of said ultrasonic oscillator and an anti-resonance frequency thereof is regulated to 1.2 kHz or more.

15. (AMENDED) [The ultrasonic cleaning apparatus according to claim 1,] An ultrasonic cleaning apparatus which cleans a subject to be cleaned by utilizing oscillation generated by an ultrasonic oscillator, comprising:

a power amplifier for amplifying an amplitude of a signal to supply the signal as power to said ultrasonic oscillator;

a detector for detecting a state of said ultrasonic oscillator; and

a controller for controlling a frequency of said signal depending on an output detected by the detector,

wherein said power supplied to said ultrasonic oscillator is set to a range from 1W to 10W and wherein a difference between a resonance frequency of said ultrasonic oscillator and an anti-resonance frequency thereof is regulated to 1.5 kHz or more.

16. (AMENDED) [The ultrasonic cleaning apparatus according to claim 1,] An ultrasonic cleaning apparatus which cleans a subject to be cleaned by utilizing oscillation generated by an ultrasonic oscillator, comprising:

a power amplifier for amplifying an amplitude of a signal to supply the signal as power to said ultrasonic oscillator;

a detector for detecting a state of said ultrasonic oscillator, said detector is a phase comparator for obtaining a difference between a phase of a current flowing through said ultrasonic oscillator and a phase of a voltage applied to said ultrasonic oscillator and for generating the voltage in accordance with the phase difference; and

a controller for controlling a frequency of said signal depending on an output detected by the detector, said controller is a voltage control oscillation device for generating a signal having a frequency in accordance with the voltage generated by the phase comparator and for controlling said frequency so that said phase difference is kept within a predetermined phase range;

wherein said power supplied to said ultrasonic oscillator is set to a range from 1W to 10W, and wherein at least one passive element of a coil and a capacitor is connected in parallel to said ultrasonic oscillator, and a difference between a resonance frequency of a synthesis circuit and an anti-resonance frequency thereof close to the resonance frequency is regulated to 1.2 kHz or more, the synthesis circuit being constituted by said passive element and said ultrasonic oscillator.

17. (AMENDED) [The ultrasonic cleaning apparatus according to claim 1,] An ultrasonic cleaning apparatus which cleans a subject to be cleaned by utilizing oscillation generated by an ultrasonic oscillator, comprising:

a power amplifier for amplifying an amplitude of a signal to supply the signal as power to said ultrasonic oscillator;

a detector for detecting a state of said ultrasonic oscillator, said detector is a phase comparator for obtaining a difference between a phase of a current flowing through said ultrasonic oscillator and a phase of a voltage applied to said ultrasonic oscillator and for generating the voltage in accordance with the phase difference; and

a controller for controlling a frequency of said signal depending on an output detected by the detector, said controller is a voltage control oscillation device for generating a signal having a frequency in accordance with the voltage generated by the phase comparator and for controlling said frequency so that said phase difference is kept within a predetermined phase range;

wherein said power supplied to said ultrasonic oscillator is set to a range from 1W to 10W, and wherein at least one passive element of a coil and a capacitor is connected in parallel to said ultrasonic oscillator, and a difference between a resonance frequency of a synthesis circuit and an anti-resonance frequency thereof close to the resonance frequency is regulated to 1.5 kHz or more, the synthesis circuit being constituted by said passive element and said ultrasonic oscillator.

18. (AMENDED) A method of controlling an ultrasonic cleaning apparatus which cleans a subject to be cleaned by oscillation generated by an ultrasonic oscillator, comprising the steps of:

amplifying an amplitude of a signal to supply the signal to said ultrasonic oscillator;

obtaining a difference between a phase of a current flowing through said ultrasonic oscillator and a phase of a voltage applied to said ultrasonic oscillator, and generating a voltage in accordance with the phase difference; [and]

generating a frequency of said signal depending on the voltage generated in accordance with the phase difference, and controlling said frequency so that said phase difference is kept at a predetermined range[.]; and

[wherein said] setting power supplied to said ultrasonic oscillator [is set] to a phase range from 1W to 10W.

20. (AMENDED) The method according to claim 18, wherein an ultrasonic phone for amplifying an oscillation speed is jointed to said ultrasonic oscillator, and [the] said method further comprises the step of setting a maximum value of the oscillation speed at a tip end plane of the ultrasonic phone [is set] to a range from 1m/s to 10m/s.